

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on August 15, 2006. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) for being anticipated by Miller et al.

Claims 2, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al.

Claims 4, 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al in view of Meissner et al.

Claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al in view of Hargis et al.

Claim 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al in view of Hargis et al. and further in view of Meissner et al.

It is noted with gratitude that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, for the purposes of expedited allowance, claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claims 1, 13 and 15 have been cancelled as being extraneous and the dependent claims now depend ultimately from claim 16.

Claims 2-12, 14 and 16-19 are accordingly deemed allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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